



Despite Claims of Reid-Kennedy Supporters, Tougher Border Security is Effective in Curtailing Illegal Immigration

*Recent Efforts to Tighten Border Security Along Southern Border
Have Led to a Reduction in Illegal Immigration*

August 24, 2006

Supporters of the discredited Reid-Kennedy immigration bill continue to tout the necessity of a “comprehensive” approach toward illegal immigration that would include amnesty. Yet this notion was dealt another blow today when major papers around the nation reported that there has been a significant reduction in the number of illegal immigrants recently entering the United States across the southern border – and the Bush Administration is crediting recent efforts to increase border security as the reason for the reduction. This is further proof that, despite the claims of Reid-Kennedy supporters, stronger border security and tougher enforcement of existing laws can help curtail illegal immigration.

[“Illegal Border Crossings Dip, and Official Cites Security”](#)

The New York Times (8/24/06):

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff announced on Wednesday that tough border security measures championed by the Bush administration had significantly reduced the number of illegal immigrants entering from Mexico for the first time in several years.

Mr. Chertoff pointed to recent apprehension figures to bolster his assertion, saying that the number of Mexicans captured in June and July had dipped to the lowest level for that two-month period since the fiscal year 2002. The number of non-Mexican immigrants apprehended during June and July, he said, dropped to the lowest level for that period since the fiscal year 2004.

Mr. Chertoff attributed the decline to President Bush's decision to deploy National Guard troops on the Mexican border and to an expansion in the number of beds in detention centers, which has in recent weeks allowed immigration officials for the first time to detain nearly all illegal immigrants from countries other than Mexico until they can be deported. Illegal immigrants from Mexico are typically returned soon after capture.

Those efforts, he said, have discouraged illegal immigrants from trying to enter the country...

"Drop in Illegal Border Crossings a Sign of Success, Bush Aide Says"

The Los Angeles Times (8/24/06):

The Bush administration announced Wednesday that it had made "extraordinary progress" in reducing the number of Mexicans and others trying to enter the United States illegally, saying that apprehensions had reached the lowest rate in the last four years.

The administration's beefed-up enforcement efforts — including more emphasis on deportation, improved Border Patrol technology and the president's decision to temporarily deploy National Guard troops along the Mexican border — appear to be making a significant difference, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff told reporters.

"What we have done is beginning to work," he said, adding that the number of illegal immigrants caught crossing the border had declined considerably since early summer. The numbers are at least 25% lower than this time last year, according to statistics provided by the Department of Homeland Security...

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